

8. (Amended) The maize plant, or parts thereof, according to claim 7, wherein the plant or parts thereof have been transformed so that its genetic material contains one or more transgenes operably linked to one or more regulatory elements.

9. (Amended) The maize plant according to claim 7, wherein said single gene transferred trait comprises a gene conferring upon said maize plant tolerance to a herbicide.

10. (Amended) The maize plant according to claim 9, wherein said herbicide is glyphosate, gluphosinate, a sulfonylurea or an imidazolinone herbicide, a hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase inhibitor or a protoporphyrinogen oxidase inhibitor.

11. (Amended) The maize plant according to claim 7, wherein said single gene transferred trait comprises a gene conferring upon said maize plant insect resistance, disease resistance or virus resistance.

12. (Amended) The maize plant according to claim 11, wherein said gene conferring upon said maize plant insect resistance is a *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry1Ab gene.

13. (Amended) The maize plant according to claim 12, further comprising a *bar* gene.

14. (Amended) The maize plant according to claim 12, wherein said Cry1Ab gene is introgressed into said maize plant from a maize line comprising a Bt-11 event or a 176 event.

15. (Amended) Seed of the plant according to claim 7.

16. (Amended) A tissue culture of regenerable cells of the maize plant according to claim 2, wherein the tissue regenerates plants capable of expressing all the morphological and physiological characteristics of the plant according to claim 2.

17. (Amended) The tissue culture according to claim 16, the regenerable cells being selected from the group consisting of embryos, meristems, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, silk, flowers, kernels, ears, cobs, husks and stalks, or being protoplasts or callus derived therefrom.

18. (Amended) A maize plant regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 16, capable of expressing all the morphological and physiological characteristics of inbred line NP2171, seed of said inbred line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-2886.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said resultant seed is a first generation (F1) hybrid maize seed.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the inbred maize plant of claim 2 is the female parent.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the inbred maize plant of claim 2 is the male parent.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said resultant seed is a first generation (F1) hybrid maize seed.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the inbred maize plant of claim 5 is the female parent.

28. (Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the inbred maize plant of claim 5 is the male parent.

32. (Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein said resultant seed is a first generation (F1) hybrid maize seed.

33. (Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the inbred maize plant of claim 7 is the female parent.

A8 amended
 34. (Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the inbred maize plant of claim 7 is the male parent.

A9
 37. (Amended) A method for producing inbred line NP2171, representative seed of which has been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-2886 comprising:

(a) planting a collection of seed comprising seed of a hybrid, one of whose parents is a plant according to claim 2, or a maize plant having all the physiological and morphological characteristics of a plant according to claim 2, said collection also comprising seed of said inbred line;

(b) growing plants from said collection of seed;

(c) identifying said inbred plants, wherein said inbred plants are identified by their decreased vigor;

(d) selecting said inbred plant; and

(e) controlling pollination in a manner which preserves the homozygosity of said inbred plant.

sub 34
 38. (Amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein said one parent is the plant of inbred maize line NP2171, further comprising a single gene transferred trait.

A10 sub 35
 40. (Amended) A method comprising introgressing a single gene trait into inbred maize line NP2171, seed of said line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-2886, using one or more markers for marker assisted selection among maize lines to be used in a maize breeding program, the markers being associated with a single gene trait, wherein the resulting maize line is inbred maize line NP2171 further comprising said single gene transferred trait.

41. (Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein said a single gene trait comprises a Cry1Ab gene.

Please add the following claims:

503
B7
43. (New) The maize plant, or parts thereof, of claim 5, wherein the plants or parts thereof have been transformed so that its genetic material contains one or more transgenes operably linked to one or more regulatory elements.

AU
44. (New) A method for producing a maize plant that contains in its genetic material one or more transgenes, comprising crossing the maize plant of claim 43 with either a second plant of another maize line, or a non-transformed maize plant of the line NP2171, so that the genetic material of the progeny that result from the cross contains the transgene(s) operably linked to a regulatory element.

45. (New) The maize plant, or parts thereof, of claim 8, wherein the plants or parts thereof have been transformed so that its genetic material contains one or more transgenes operably linked to one or more regulatory elements.

503
B7
46. (New) A method for producing a maize plant that contains in its genetic material one or more transgenes, comprising crossing the maize plant of claim 45 with either a second plant of another maize line, or a non-transformed maize plant of the line NP2171, so that the genetic material of the progeny that result from the cross contains the transgene(s) operably linked to a regulatory element.

47. (New) A method for developing a maize plant in a maize plant breeding program using plant breeding techniques, which include employing a maize plant, or its parts, as a source of plant breeding material, comprising: obtaining the maize plant, or its parts, of claim 2 as a source of said breeding material.

503
B7
48. (New) A maize plant breeding program of claim 47, wherein plant breeding techniques are selected from the group consisting of: recurrent selection, backcrossing, pedigree breeding,